



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Tara B. White, Chair
Michele Shalaby
Nathaniel H. Yohalem
Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2015
6 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Tara B. White, Chairman
Michele Shalaby
Nathaniel Yohalem

Others Present: Joseph Kellogg, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Jan Johnson
Tim Newman
Prudence Spaulding

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6 p.m.

Mill River Farm - Jan Johnson presented to the Board the status of the Mill River Farm. She explained they are going into their third growing season and shared with the Board the layout of the vegetable beds, keeping them safe from erosion.

Currently, the Farm is seeking a license for on-farm poultry processing via the State and New Marlborough Board of Health. She requested that the Board of Selectmen give their recommendation to the NMBOH for her license.

The Board questioned her about her neighbors' response to her proposed program. She was asked about noise as well as odor that may emanate from the facility. She has had no negative responses from neighbors and assured the Board that composting will not create an odor.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to recommend the Mill River Farm for licensing under MDPH Policy Statement FP-8, provided State requirements are met. (Michele Shalaby recused herself from this vote)

Joe Kellogg will write the Board of Health advising them of the Board's recommendation of the Mill River Farm licensing.

WRAP (Winter Recovery Assistance Program) – The State has authorized Pothole money to be distributed among the towns in Massachusetts. New Marlborough will receive \$51,673 to repair the damage done to the roads during this past winter season. **A motion was made, seconded and so approved to authorize Chairman, Tara White, to sign the contract with the State.**

Cover Pictures for Annual Report – The Board was presented with the pictures submitted by the residents. Five possible pictures were selected; the decision of which picture to be used will be made next week.

Articles for the 2015 Annual Town Meeting – Joe Kellogg presented the proposed financial articles to the Board for their review. The following articles were approved by the Board:

- Article to vote to transfer from FY15 Assessors Consultant Account the sum of \$5,000 to the Assessor's Consultant Account
- Article to vote to transfer the sum of \$2,700 from the Perpetual Care Interest Account to the Cemetery Expense account.
- Article to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500 for the purpose of providing vocational education.
- Article to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$46,550 from the New Marlborough Rescue/Comstar Reserved Account to the New Marlborough Rescue/Comstar Reserved Expense Account.
- Article to see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving fund accounts pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 to authorize the receiving of inspection fees to be expended during FY2016 as follows:

Gas Inspector	\$ 5,000
Electrical Inspector	\$ 7,500
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 7,500
Health Agent	<u>\$17,000</u>
Total	\$37,000

The above articles were recommended by the Finance Committee. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted to recommend approval of the above five articles.**

Selectman Shalaby stated her concern for approving "Free Cash" items at this time, preceding a meeting at which the BOS and Finance Committee will discuss future capital expenditures, debt, Stabilization Funds and use of Free Cash. Selectman Yohalem felt that if the Town backed out of buying the mower, it would jeopardize the "shared services" relationship with the other towns. As a result of those discussions, the following three "free cash" articles will require additional conversations with the Finance Committee on April 9:

- Transfer the sum of \$90,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account.
- Transfer the sum of \$60,000 from Free Cash to the Highway Department Roadside Mower Account, to be jointly purchased with Sheffield (each Town contributing \$60,000)
- Transfer the sum of \$10,000 from Free Cash to the Highway Garage Emergency Generator Account.

The following Wired West article will be held until the cost to the Town is determined:

- To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the Town's share of the cost of the construction, installation and start-up of a high-speed broadband network.

Town Administrative Structure – Joe Kellogg advised the Board he would like to advertise for a Town Administrator as opposed to an Administrative Assistant, hoping to get a better response to an advertisement. A change of title does not reflect a change in the job or reporting responsibility. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve an advertisement for Town Administrator.**

Administrative Updates – Joe Kellogg stated he would have a draft of the warrant next week. The 2014 Annual Report is at Courier Printing for layout; however, a report is still needed from the Board of Health.

Selectmen's Updates – Chairman White advised that Dave Hastings has organized the activities for the Memorial Day Parade and will have Charles Parton as a keynote speaker.

Headstone Insurance – Joe Kellogg to get information regarding whether or not historical headstones can be insured.

Rt. 57 – Joe Kellogg reported that the proposed Rt. 57 takeover by the State is on the warrant. Joe also reported he spoke with Kerry Sullivan, Rep. Pignatelli's secretary, regarding whether or not the same language can be used for both New Marlborough and Sandisfield. The article will read as to whether the Town will petition the Legislature to accept the portion of Rt. 57 in the Town of New Marlborough and Sandisfield, while Sandisfield's article will ask the Town to petition the Legislature to accept Rt.57 between New Marlborough and Tolland. A "simple majority" at the Town Meeting will approve this article. If this article is approved by the Town, both Rep. Pignatelli and Sen. Downing would shepherd it through legislation.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary